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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (O/DCI)

Routing Slip

| TO: | | ACTION | INFO | DATE | INITIAL |
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| 1 | DCI | | ✓ | | |
| 2 | DDCI | | ✓ | | |
| 3 | DD/RM | | | | |
| 4 | DD/NFA | | ✓ | | |
| 5 | DD/CT | | | | |
| 6 | DD/A | | | | |
| 7 | DD/O | | ✓ | | |
| 8 | DD/S&T | | | | |
| 9 | GC | | | | |
| 10 | LC | | ✓ | | |
| 11 | IG | | | | |
| 12 | Compt | | | | |
| 13 | D/PA | | | | |
| 14 | D/EEO | | | | |
| 15 | D/Pers | | | | |
| 16 | AO/DCI | | | | |
| 17 | G/IPS | | | | |
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| SUSPENSE DATE: 4 Oct | | | | | |

Remarks:

To 10 - Please prepare response
for DCI signature.

D/28 Sep 78
Date

STAT

R78-1726

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

78-6452

September 28, 1978

OLC #78-5374

Honorable Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

My staff principal canceled a meeting which was to have occurred at 9:30 this morning with NFAC and DDO representatives. This became necessary because at 9:15 the CIA Office of Legislative Counsel called to say that a decision had been made to exclude staff from the meeting, and that they would brief me alone.

This restriction, imposed fifteen minutes before the scheduled meeting, is entirely inconsistent with the relationship that ought to exist between the Committee and the DCI. The following background makes that evident:

At the Subcommittee on Evaluation hearing of September 20, the witness, [redacted] explained that differences between NIE 4-1-78 and earlier departmental estimates resulted from several changes in the approach to the analysis, and that "important new evidence of a sensitive nature" confirmed the new estimate of Warsaw Pact preparation time. (As you know, the Subcommittee staff had prepared a detailed critique of NIE 4-1-78, which faulted it for not clearing the air with regard to previous warning estimates.)

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Referring to his assertion about the "important new evidence," I asked [redacted] to share this new material that confirmed the NIE's judgments. When he responded that it was "compartmented information" and that not everyone in the room would be cleared for it, I asked that he instead provide the information to the Subcommittee. The following day--fully a week ago--the Office of Legislative Counsel and my staff arranged for a briefing on this material for 9:30 this morning.

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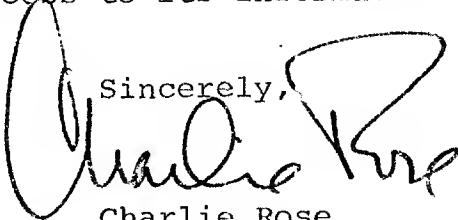
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It is evident from the above that the sudden, seemingly arbitrary decision not to provide the information to my staff effectively prohibits the Subcommittee from fully evaluating your [redacted] explanation of the NIE's judgments. Furthermore, it impedes the Subcommittee's efforts to assist the Program and Budget Subcommittee in its study of HUMINT. Most importantly, this action constitutes an unacceptable denial of the access which this Committee requires in order to carry out its responsibilities.

I would appreciate you giving this matter your attention. While I appreciate the problem of the "need to know principle," I also recognize that effective evaluation and oversight of the intelligence community cannot be performed if we are not provided access to its information.

Sincerely,



Charlie Rose
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Evaluation

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